

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 241338Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1721
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 3358

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW, UR
SUBJECT: EGON BAHR AND ALFRED DREGGER ON GERMAN RELATIONS WITH
U.S. AND USSR

1. THE RHINELAND-PALATINATE SPD LAND CONFERENCE AT LANSTEIN
ON APRIL 22 INCLUDED AN UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE BY EGON
BAHR WHO HAD COME PRIMARILY TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDACY OF
KLAUS VON DOHNANYI TO HEAD THE SPD RESERVE LIST
BEING SET UP FOR THE 1979 LANDTAG ELECTIONS. (NOTE:
DOHNANY, WHILE RESPECTED FOR HIS INTELLECTUAL QUALITIES,
IS NOT PARTICULARLY POPULAR AMONG THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT
FOLKS IN THE RHINELAND-PALATINATE. NEVERTHELESS WITH
SOME PRIOR LOBBYING AND NATIONAL-LEVEL SUPPORT, HIS
CANDIDACY TO HEAD THE LIST WAS ENDORSED BY THE
CONVENTION WITH 132 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED.)

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2. BAHR USED THE OCCASION TO VIGOROUSLY DEFEND HIS
JUST CONCLUDED MOSCOW VISIT AGAINST CDU CRITICS. IN
DOING SO HE POINTED OUT THAT EXCHANGES BETWEEN
"UNOFFICIAL" REPRESENTATIVES ARE OFTEN LESS INHIBITED
AND THEREFORE MORE USEFUL THAN OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS
WHICH, BY THEIR NATURE, HAD TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS. HE

WENT ON TO SAY THAT -- AND WHAT FOLLOWS IS CLOSE TO
VERBATIM -- SOME AMONG US HAVE VOICED CONCERN ABOUT
OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, BUT AS FAR AS THE
CDU IS CONCERNED THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE WORRIED ABOUT
RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. OUR, I.E. GERMAN,
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. REST FIRMLY ON TREATIES AND
COMMON CONVICTION. THE UNITED STATES IS A POWERFUL
NATION. THE USSR IS ALSO POWERFUL BUT NOT TIED TO US
BY COMMON CONVICTIONS AS WE ARE WITH THE U.S. FOR THAT
REASON THE CARE OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR IS NO LESS
IMPORTANT. IT IS THIS WAY, BAHR SAID: "I DO NOT NEED
TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE U.S. IF WE ARE WORRIED THEN IT
IS BECAUSE OF THE GREAT MILITARY STRENGTH OR SUPERIOR
POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION. TO TALK WITH THEM IN ALL
CANDOR AND TO TELL THEM OUR CONCERNS IS NOW AND THEN
MORE IMPORTANT THEN TO TALK WITH THE UNITED STATES.
UNQUOTE.

3. WHILE BAHR WAS ADDRESSING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ON THE
RHINE, HESSIAN CDU CHAIRMAN ALFRED DREGGER, THE VERY
ANTITHESIS OF BAHR, WAS ON THE RADIO IN FRANKFURT IN A
HESSISCHE RUNDFUNK BROADCAST. DREGGER CRITICIZED
A LOW POINT IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. DREGGER SAID THAT
U.S. AND GERMAN INTERESTS REMAIN IN BASIC ACCORD, BUT
ASKED FOR A MORE SELF-RELIANT EUROPE AND GREATER
EUROPEAN WILLINGNESS TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY SINCE,
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IN DREGGER'S VIEW , TOO MUCH IS DEMANDED FROM THE UNITED
STATES.LEHMANN

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